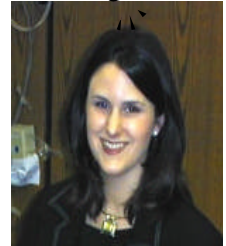


AROUND THE HOUSE

SPOTLIGHT ON FSS



My name is Amanda, and I joined the Section 8 Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program in January 2002. I am very excited to be involved as the current Resident Board Member for the FSS program. My presence on the board will give me the opportunity to give positive feedback on improving the program and helping to spread the word to those who are not yet familiar with FSS and its benefits.

I am currently taking classes at Wichita State University to achieve my goal of a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Recently, I was chosen by the Wichita Soroptimist's Club as the winner of the "2002 Women's Opportunity Award".

I feel very fortunate to be involved in the FSS program. It will give me the chance to work towards additional goals like owning my own home in the next few years and making a better life for myself and my daughter.

I would encourage anyone that is eligible for FSS to take advantage of the options that are available to them and achieve as many goals as possible while in the program.

If you would like more information about the Family Self-Sufficiency program and how you can one day achieve economic independence, please call Vallery Fields or Diane Boyd at 268-4688.

FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY GRADUATION CEREMONY



The Housing Services Department Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program honored graduates at the first annual ceremony and reception on August 1, 2002 at the Wichita Boathouse.



Family Self Sufficiency Program Graduates

Front Row: Kathryn Johnson, Patricia Smith, Deborah Diggs, Armetrius Brooks, Joyce Capers. Back Row: Wichita Council/Vice-Mayor Bob Martz, Housing Services Director Roy Johnson, Section 8 Program Coordinator Gail Lotson,

Fifty-three graduates were recognized for their achievements during the program. FSS Graduates Deborah Diggs and Kathryn Johnson presented their family self-sufficiency goals and their accomplishments. Deborah Diggs and Patricia Smith are now homeowners. Kathryn Johnson invested her escrow savings into a property management business and Joyce Capers is preparing to purchase a home. Enrollment in the FSS program has drastically increased since the celebration.

Bob Martz, Vice Mayor was the keynote speaker and provided words of encouragement and congratulated the graduates on their successful mission.

Roy Johnson Director of Housing, Gail Lotson Section 8 Coordinator, Vallery Fields and Diane Boyd, Leasing Specialists, presented the graduates with certificates, and hearty congratulations on their achievement.



Rent Payment Drop Box Guidelines

As you know the rent drop box is there for the convenience of our Public Housing tenants in order to drop off their rent payments outside of our regular business hours. Please remember these important facts when dropping off your payment.

- ⇒ Whenever possible, please utilize the rent payment envelopes provided in the box next to the drop box. The size and shape of these envelopes are appropriate for the drop box slot.
- ⇒ Do not use large, business size envelopes for your rent payment, as the drop box is just not large enough to accommodate the space they take up. If you fold up your envelope, it unfolds inside the box and blocks the slot for envelopes inserted after yours.
- ⇒ For your own financial well-being, after inserting your rent payment into the drop box, check and double check to be sure that the envelope dropped down through the hole. Otherwise you risk your envelope being lifted by someone else but the rent due will still be your responsibility.
- ⇒ Do not use the drop box for anything other than rent payments. Any correspondence found in the drop box other than rent payments will be discarded.

Tenant Advisory Board Represents YOU

Several members of the Board recently attended a two-day training on resident leadership. The training covered the formation and organization of resident organizations, ways in which residents can become more active in the management of their developments, as well as different sources of funding for resident organizations. A copy of the training manual is available for checkout at the Housing Services Department office at 332 N. Riverview. Call at the Housing Department if you are interested in signing out the manual.

The Tenant Advisory Board members representing both the Public Housing and Section 8 programs are available to you. If you have question or concerns related to Public Housing/Section 8 policies and practices, or are interested in forming a resident association, feel free to contact your Tenant Advisory Board members. Carol Adams can be reached by calling 262-8101 or write her at 918 Hiram #2, Wichita, 67213. Other board members are Roy Moseley, Inafay Grays-McClellan, Beverly Allen, Edith Mott, Lucinda Murdock, Heath Peterson, Dorothy Warnacut, and Carmita Wright.

Tenant Advisory Board meetings are always open to the public. Contact the Housing office 268-4688 for meeting times and locations.



Announcing New Housing Services Financial Division

The Housing Services Department is undergoing financial staff reorganization. Part of the reorganization has been the appointment of Anthony (Tony) Hardrick as Fiscal Supervisor of the recently created Financial Division.

Financial Division staff members responsible for Public Housing and Section 8 accounting activities under Tony's supervision are Addison DeAllie, Accountant, Account Clerks III Mo Bui and Donna Sanchez, and Yolanda Chavez, Account Clerk II. Yolanda will assist in these areas as well as assisting in HOME and Emergency Shelter Grant Budgeting.

The centralization of the Housing Services accounting, budgeting, and record keeping functions will help to ensure *effective and efficient financial management* of HUD funds and *provide the best quality housing and services for our clients*.

H.Q.S. Housing Quality Standards

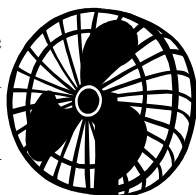
Housing Choice Voucher regulations require our Section 8 inspectors to implement HQS (Housing Quality Standards) inspection procedures. Some of the less commonly known requirements relate to air quality.

INTERIOR AIR QUALITY

The performance requirement states that the dwelling unit must be free of air pollutant levels that threaten the occupant's health.

ACCEPTABLE CRITERIA

- ✓ The dwelling unit must be free from dangerous air pollution levels from carbon monoxide, sewer gas, fuel gas, dust and other harmful pollutants.
- ✓ There must be adequate air circulation in the dwelling unit.
- ✓ Bathroom areas must have one operable window or other adequate ventilation such as a mechanical or gravity vent fan.
- ✓ Any sleeping room must have at least one window. If the window was designed to be opened, it must be in proper working order and must stay up. The windows must adequately protect the unit's interior from the weather. Windows should be designed to open and must not be painted or nailed shut.



Section 8 owners are encouraged to inspect their dwelling units to find out if their dwelling units meet these Housing Quality Standards. It is also the responsibility of the client not to nail windows shut for any reason, as this would be a violation on their part.

Housing Rehabilitation and Ownership Activities



June 30th marked the last day for our 2001/2002 program year for our HOME & CDBG housing programs. Projects completed during the past year follow.

- ✦ 154 Emergency repair projects
- ✦ 10 major rehabilitation projects
- ✦ 20 exterior repair projects
- ✦ 4 rental units rehabilitated
- ✦ 45-2% interest rehabilitation loan projects
- ✦ 4 historic rehabilitation loans
- ✦ 249 paint grants
- ✦ 32 first-time homebuyer assistance loans
- ✦ 14 new homes constructed by non-profits receiving funds from the City and 31 additional sites in various stages of development
- ✦ 1 downtown project approved for funding for re-use of vacant building for housing
- ✦ 2 projects approved for construction of single family homes

Many new projects that will result in the construction of additional units and tools for homeownership were implemented and will carry forward into 2002/2003.

Housing Services Awarded Additional Section 8 Vouchers!

HUD has recently announced that Wichita was awarded an additional 45 vouchers as part of the Fair Share Allocation. The vouchers are to be used for families on the waitlist in order to enable the families to access decent, safe, and affordable housing of their choice on the private rental market. The \$202,000 award was in response to an application submitted by the Housing Services Department on March 25, 2002. Eligibility of the vouchers was contingent upon the Housing Authority's utilization rate exceeding 97%.

Winners of the Spring Yard Care Bonanza

Last Spring each Public Housing unit received a flyer announcing the availability of free flower seed, grass seed, hoses and sprinklers. The flyer also mentioned that winners would be chosen from among all the Public Housing units in the city and that prizes would be awarded.

Winners were chosen based upon the condition of the yard at random dates and times. Some of the items we looked for were acceptable grass height, lack of weeds and undergrowth, absence of litter and debris, and overall neatness of the yard. Additional flowers and plants added by residents certainly did not hurt their chances of winning. The votes are in and some of the winners of **\$50 gift certificates to Towne East or Towne West Malls** are listed below.

Thanks to all who participated in the free giveaway, and congratulations to all of the winners.



Some of our lucky winners:

Sarah Benford
Stella Boyd
Mable Colbert, 3314 Palisade
Lillie Curry
Jewell Daniels
Betty Ector, 1647 Faulders
Cynthia Hughes, 2608 Piatt
Nan "Pat" Lawrence, Bernice Hutcherson, #20444,
#2022, #2062
Cam Le
Edith Mott, Greenway Manor
Don Murray, Bernice Hutcherson, #2032
Bill Stang, McLean Manor
Scott Von Fange, McLean Manor
Betty Van Noy
Anonymous, 2120 Murdock

HOUSING QUALITY STANDARD INSPECTION TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

All Inspection staff have recently attended Housing Quality Standard training and received certification. The training involved Section 8 pre-inspection, re-inspection, complaints and quality inspection preparation and procedures, problem solving, conflict resolution, and consistency.

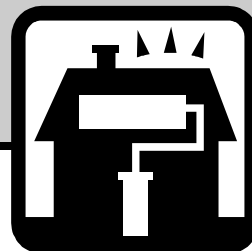


Wichita's training was attended by management and leasing staff along with neighboring housing authority's staff. They were instructed in techniques to improve housing inspections and to evaluate current operations, identifying strengths and challenges within our changing environment.

This training was held locally at the Old Town Hotel Conference Center and the instructor was Ken Love, Consultant with NAHRO.

PAINT GRANT NOTICE

Due to the large number of paint grant and paint labor grant applications, August 30th was the cut-off date for accepting applications. We will begin taking applications again in April, 2003.



Home Maintenance & Housekeeping Classes

FREE fall classes are scheduled! Make room on your calendar to attend!

Topics covered include cleaning house on a tight budget, reducing clutter, laundry tips, time management, record keeping, and sharing the household responsibilities to name just a few! Choose a date, time or location below that fits your needs!



1. September 16	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Stanley/Aley Neighborhood City Hall
2. September 19	Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Atwater Neighborhood City Hall
3. October 30	Wednesday	2:00 p.m.	Colvin Neighborhood City Hall
4. November 18	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Atwater Neighborhood City Hall
5. November 20	Wednesday	2:00 p.m.	Colvin Neighborhood City Hall
6. December 17	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Stanley/Aley Neighborhood City Hall

SPACE IS LIMITED! Sign up to attend any one of these FREE classes by calling us at 268-4688 OR you can send in the form below to Housing Services, 332 N. Riverview, Wichita 67203

Home Maintenance & Housekeeping Class

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Class you'll be attending: _____

WHA 5-Year and 2002 Agency Plan is Ready

On October 21, 1998, the *Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998* (QHWRA) was signed into law as part of the FY 1999 Appropriations Bill. One provision of the Act is the mandate for public housing authorities to prepare a five-year plan showing the needs and goals for that period (update every five years) and a more detailed annual operating plan.

The annual plan must include, among other things, information on the housing needs of the locality, population served, method of rent determination, operations, capital improvements, unmet housing needs of families with income less than 30 percent of median income, homeownership efforts and efforts to coordinate the program with local welfare agencies and providers and other items. These plans cover the administrative policies and budgets for both Section 8 and Public Housing Programs.

Section 511 of the QHWRA requires the board of directors of housing authorities to conduct a public hearing to discuss the housing authority plans and to invite public comment regarding the plans. In the event that the board receives public comment, written or oral, which is deemed significant enough to amend the plans, the board may amend the plans and certify the plans as amended.

The 5-year and 2003 Annual Plans are now available for inspection by the public at the Housing Services Office located at 332 N. Riverview. Written comments regarding the Plan can be mailed to 332 N. Riverview, Wichita, KS 67203 and must be received by September 30, 2002.

The public hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers at the City Building, 455 N. Main, following the City Council Meeting which starts at 9:00 a.m. on October 1, 2002.

Around The House

Wichita Housing Services

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Wichita, Kansas 67203

Phone: 316/268-4688

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Section 8 Waitlist PUBLIC NOTICE

Wichita Housing Authority is closing the waitlist for non-preference Section 8 Housing application on **Friday, September 20, 2002**. Currently, the waitlist includes over 2,500 applicants. The decision to close the waitlist was based on the likelihood of being able to serve applicants within a 24-month period. Public Notice will be given prior to the waitlist opening again in the future.

The waitlist will remain open for applicants with local preferences that are accompanied with referral from approved referral organizations. Applications are still available at City of Wichita public library branches, neighborhood community centers located at Atwater, 2755 E. 19th St.; Colvin, 2820 S. Roosevelt; Stanley/Aley, 1749 S. Martinson; Evergreen, 2700 N. Woodland and at the Wichita Housing Authority at 307 N. Riverview until Friday, September 20. Completed applications can be mailed or hand delivered to the WHA office ONLY. Application accommodation phone calls only to 268-4683.